

Appl. No. 10/806,221
Reply filed on March 23, 2007
Reply to Office Action dated February 23, 2007

Attorney Docket No. 1131-0459PUS2
Art Unit: 1731
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REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner has required an election in the present application between:

Group I, claims 1-10, drawn to a sheet tobacco manufacturing process, classified in class 131, subclass 370; and

Group II, claims 11-14, drawn to a sheet tobacco manufacturing system, classified in class 162, subclass 99.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group II, claims 11-14.

Traversal

The Applicants respectfully submit that a serious burden has not been placed on the Examiner to consider all of the claims in a single application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his restriction and act on all of the claims in the present application. If the Examiner persists in his restriction requirement, the Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to claims 1-10 at a later date if they so desire.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,876) at 703-208-4030, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

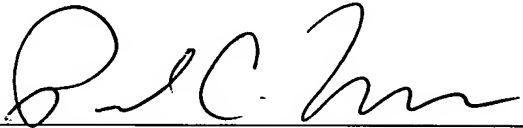
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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